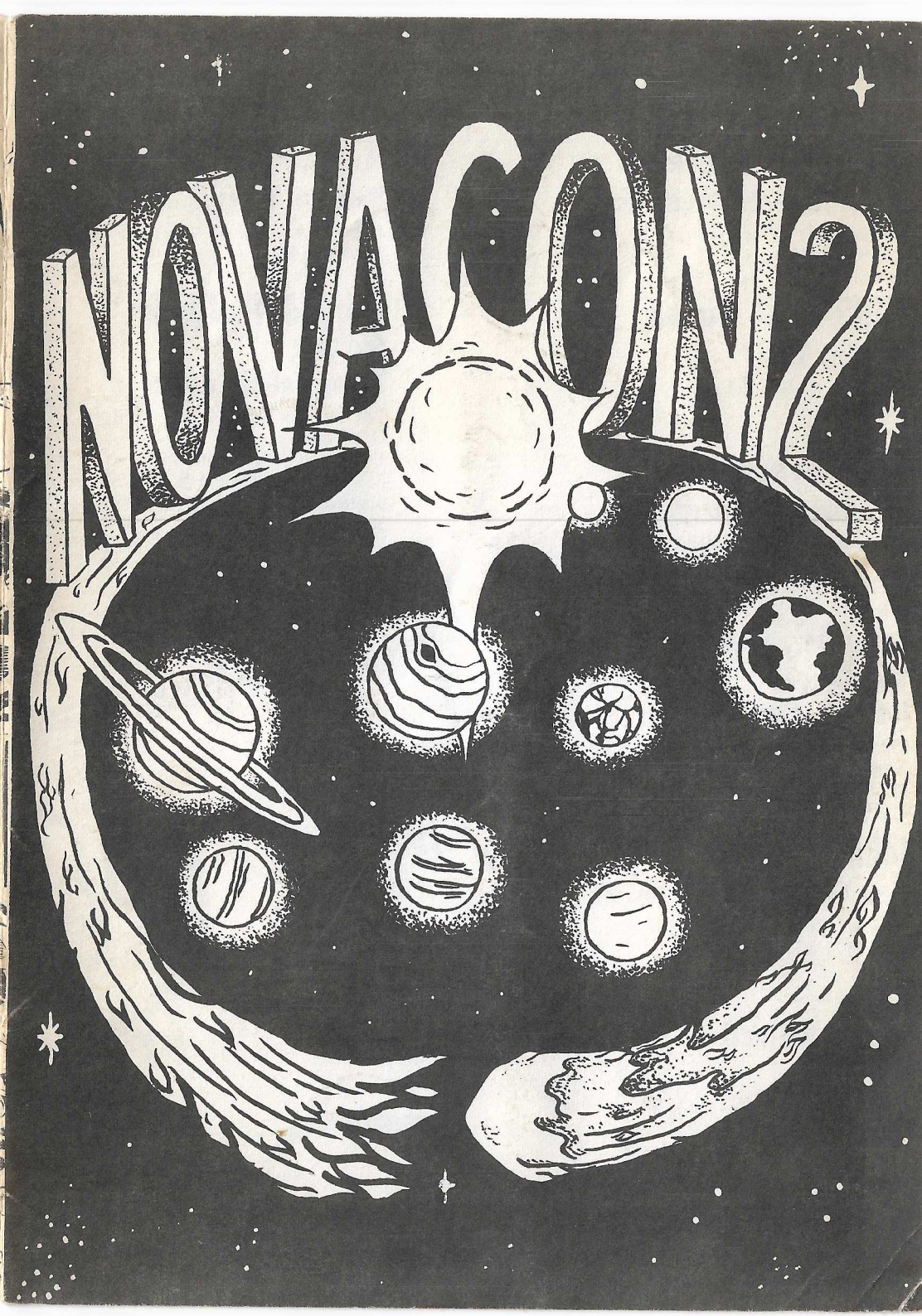
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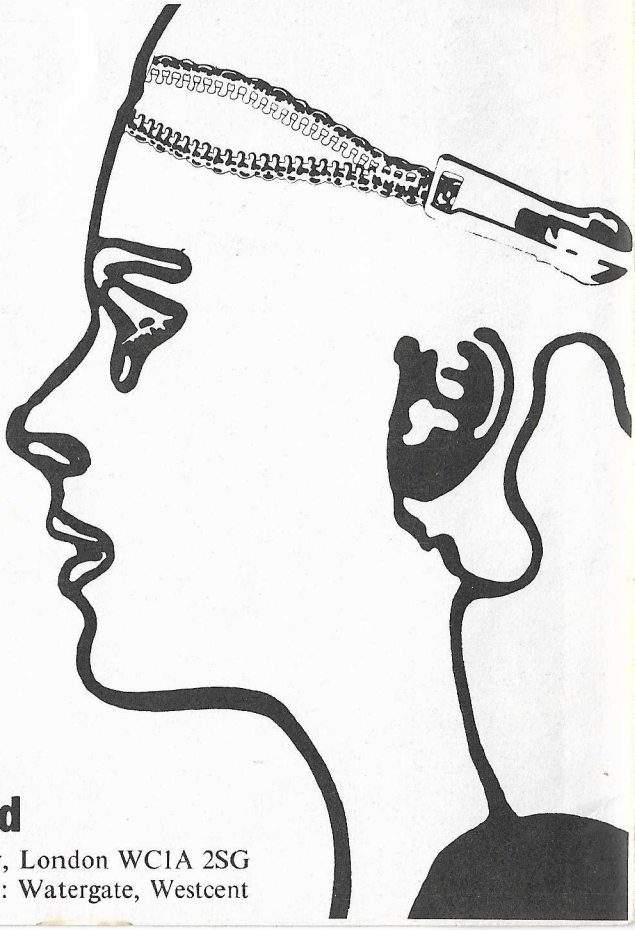

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NOVACON 2

ORGANISED BY THE BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

4-5th November 1972 IMPERIAL CENTRE HOTEL, BIRMINGHAM

PROGRAMME BOOKLET

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Pull - out

Hotel Plan
Saturday programme
Sunday programme
Map of City centre

Committee

Pauline E. Dungate	Convention Chairman
Jeffrey D. Hacker	Registration Secretary
Stan Eling	Auction and Dealers' room
Richd. Newnham	Programme Booklet
Hazel C. Reynolds	Programme assistant
Meg Palmer	Programme assistant

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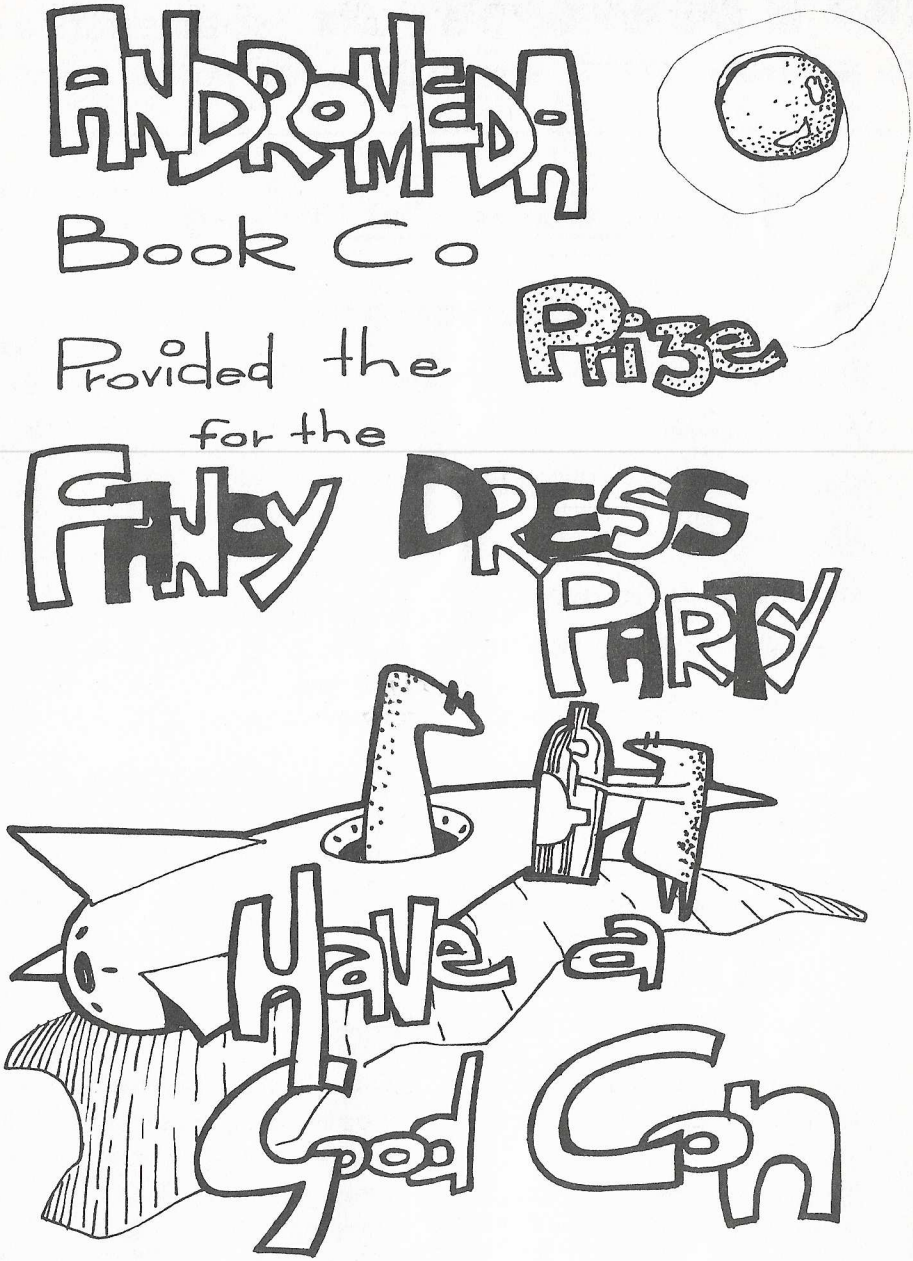
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for the
FANCY DRESS PARTY
Have a
Good Con

MESSAGE FROM THE Cha rlady

A short while ago, it was unhappily brought to my attention that I, as NOVACON chairman ought to produce something for the programme booklet. On being informed that HELP! MURDER! was not good enough, I started by looking at what other chairmen had written.

I could, I discovered, use this spot to express thanks to all those who feel they ought to be thanked, like my committee, Mike Scott (the manager that agreed to have us back), the speakers, etc. Since the only people who will read this will probably have a laser (mine) pointing at their heads, perhaps I'd better save that for some time during the convention when I'm allowed to make a public announcement.

Or I could bid all the members of the convention Welcome! and wish them all a happy, besotted weekend. Though the first moment they find themselves glass in hand, in 'good' company, they will know that they are. So that's a waste of time.

Some ex-chairmen related how they came to be in charge of their particular show. There are only two reasons; either they have not heard of the edict, 'the sane never volunteer' (sane - of sound mind; not mad: sensible. Ox. Dict.) or they are "Con-ed" into it.

And then I could relate some of the difficulties that we have run into, but anyone who has ever tried to organise anything, be it only a chimpanzee's tea party will be bored gory tales of dismembered duplicators and knows blue aura that tends to surround frustrated committee members.

I had thought of telling a fairy story beginning traditionally, Once upon a time the gnomes of Birmingham... and alude to Gay Lib and such like as someone is sure to say

we need more fantasy, but I was threatened with relegation to a goblin so you are saved.

Before I am forcibly shut up, one last word:

To all those who were hoping to see Doreen Parker as Guest-of-Honour, an apology. Unfortunately you will have to make do with Mrs. J.P.B. Rogers.

Have a Bon Con,

Pauline E. Dungate

FILM PROGRAMME

Marooned

Starring Gregory Peck and David Janssen.

This is the film of Martin Caidin's careful novel about the rescue of three astronauts from an experimental orbiting laboratory, Ironman One.
The film was originally released during the week the world waited for the return of Apollo 13.

Island of Lost Souls

Starring Charles Laughton and Richard Arlen.

The Island of Lost Souls is the 1932 version of Wells's novel "The Island of Doctor Moreau", and is considered to be one of the cleverest Hollywood adaptations of Wells's work, despite his repudiation of the film.

THE BIRMINGHAM SCIENCE FICTION GROUP

meets fortnightly here at the Imperial Hotel . A varied programme of talks , films , discussions etc. is presented and the Group is in contact with similar organisations throughout the country. If you would like to join us at one of our meetings come along on the third Friday of any month at 7.45 p.m. or write for further details to - Peter Weston , 31 Pinewall Avenue , Kings Norton , Birmingham 30 .

Imperial Centre Hotel,

Birmingham 2.

Guest - of - Honour

Doreen Parker

This shy, retiring, inarticulate creature, born in 1931 Northampton during a pause in the peregrinations of her parents - her father a serving soldier - took her first timid steps in fandom at the Petercon '63. Disappearing rapidly, she summoned up sufficient courage to re-appear at the Repetercon '64.

At this convention she was prevailed upon to take the minutes at the British Science Fiction Association's Annual General meeting. As she did not, as had happened in the past, destroy these minutes, she was then elected to the BSFA Committee. In due course of time she became Secretary, and was a leading light in the transformation of the BSFA into the BSFA Ltd. Well known to the majority of new fans as being their first point of contact in her capacity of Secretary, Doreen has tried to instil into everyone her enthusiasm for the Association and it's activities, although I can still hear one new fan a few years ago, saying in a bewildered tone, that Doreen had taken her to a room party where she had found herself at 3 in the morning in a room-ful of people she didn't know, discussing sex, and not Science Fiction. During her years of office, she did a variety of jobs, including the compilation and production of three issues of Vector. She has now retired.

During this period she became holder of the 'Doc Weir" award, and was initiated into the Order of St. Fantony.

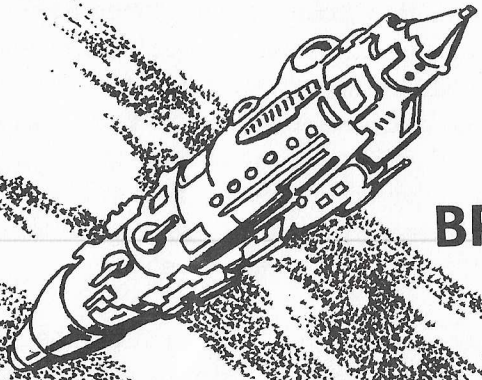
Since 1963 she has been a regular attendee at conventions, having attended all Easter Cons since that date, also squeezing in Novacon I and Heidelberg. This is rather surprising, as she is always overdrawn. She has fond memories of Birmingham, as this is the city where her car was stolen, to be discovered some one hundred yards from the hotel, with, to add insult to injury, a parking ticket. She does, however, think that Birmingham police are wonderful, as they let her off the parking offence. She now uses someone else's car. She glories in dressing up, and each year attempts to win a prize at convention Fancy Dress competitions, by appearing as C'Mel or a variation thereof. Once she succeeded and 'vanity thy name being Doreen' has gloried in it ever since, keeping her trophy in a prominent position in the bathroom.

By profession a Legal Executive, she has in private life a 'butterfly' mind, and her misuse of the English language is a contribution towards more picturesque speech. Whilst the misuse does not detract from your understanding, it is a joy to hear. Just listen for a while, you'll see what I mean.

A glutton for punishment, she has recently re-married, so in fact you are reading about a non-existent person. Her new husband states, that as a result of his marrying Doreen, he has become the proud possessor of a wife, stepdaughter, and two cats. He feels that something has gone wrong somewhere.

Juniper.

OMPAcon '73



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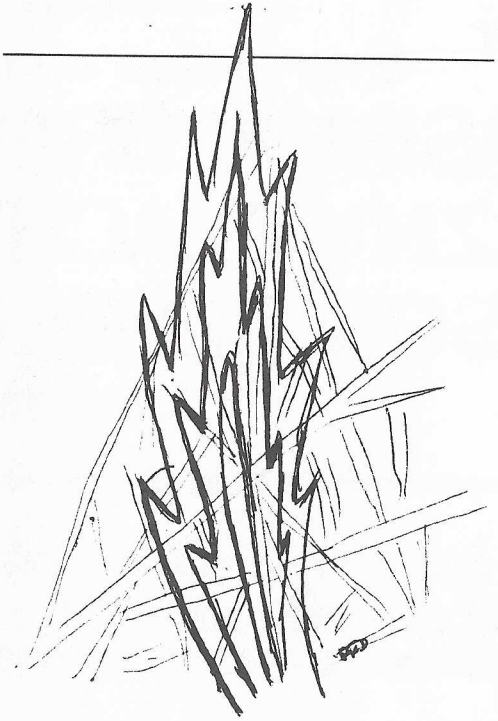

BONFIRE NIGHT

For any who wish to see a firework display during the Convention, Birmingham Parks Committee have arranged displays at:-

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& Summerfield Park Nov. 4th

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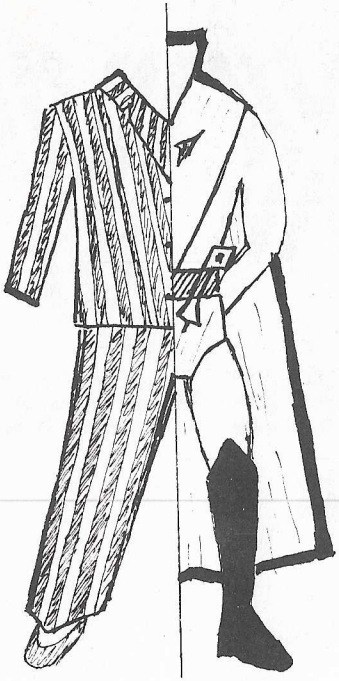
Grand Prix de Costume



Fayre Ladies and sleep-less Knights of Fandom. Cometh alle to complete thy Saturday in becomming fashion. Go ye to thy roomes and discard thy convenional rayment. Putte on such fancy clothes as is fitting and maketh for the George Roome (next to ye barre). There our deare friendes Doreen Parker and Anne McCaffrey will decide to whom will be given the 'grand prix de costume', a bottle of Whiskey donated by Andromeda Book Co.

Any wishing to partake of the revellry must come in S.F. costume or in pyjamas (to sygnify that they were too lazy to think up a costume). Others will not be admitted!!

After the fun of the fancy dress, a party will be held (continuing in the George Room) by MR. and MRS. PHIL ROGERS to celebrate their recent legal attachment.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A SOBER THOUGHT

The management wishes to make it clear that it will charge corkage for any alcoholic beverage or drink brought into the hotel. However off sales cans and bottles will be available for purchase at the box and a price list will be put in the room of every convention member.

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Tennis Balls in the Sky

Frederick William Lanchester is usually remembered by the first true motor cars named after him. Earlier vehicles were really adaptions of the internal combustion engine to existing modes of road transport and would best be described as horseless carriages. Lanchester started from the driver's position and worked the design of the car outwards. The vehicles were assembled at Ladywood, here in Birmingham. But it was his work in synthesing the results of experimental flying with aerodynamic theory that has immortalised his name.

At the close of the 19th Century there was a mass of unexplained data as to whether or not flight by heavier than air machines would be possible. On the one hand hillside gliding by Otto Lilienthal and others was going ahead whilst the mathematicians of the day were doing gymnastics with vortex and circulation theory. (A vortex is a ring of rotating fluid such as a whirl-wind or a smoke ring). The earlier aviators at least understood that a low weight to power ratio was required so that no sustained flying could be fulfilled until the advent of the petrol engine. With such a machine, the Wright Brothers made their historic flight on December 17 1903.

A chopped tennis ball always follows a curved path because it accepts a slight aerodynamic side force caused by its rotational and translational velocities passing through the air. The spinning ball develops air circulation round it which is interrupted by the motion through the air and lift results. Mathematically this lift force could be quantitatively determined in the more ideal case of a rotating cylinder or vortex moving through an air stream. An aerofoil such as a flat plate or aeroplane wing tilted at a small angle to an oncoming wind has lift, simply explained by saying that the air passing over has a faster velocity than that going under so that the air pressure on top is attenuated relative to the underside and the net difference acting over the aerofoil surface gives rise to lift. The argument then was that if an aerofoil has lift it must also have circulation from the vortex - circulation determination. At this point aerodynamic explanation came to a full stop; nothing like it could be imagined.

Lanchester showed that there was indeed a circulation round the aerofoil interrupted by the air stream and that in the real case of an aeroplane wing, trailing vortices issued from its outer edges and a large cast of vortex was left behind when the wing moved relative to the air. Furthermore he showed that this enclosed vortex system (the

wing circulation being termed the bound vortex) fitted in with the criteria demanded by vortex phenomena. There was also an important aspect of wing drag known as induced drag that Lanchester was able to deduce from his vortex theory. (When an aircraft begins to move off along the runway, the downwash of air from its wings curls up at the back and is made visible by entrapped dust. This is the starting vortex whose energy is eroded away by friction with the surrounding still air. The effect of wing trailing vortices can be seen behind high altitude aircraft. A vortex has the property of increasing speed of rotation with decreasing radius so that the centre of one possesses air at very high velocity and thus low pressure. Under these conditions atmospheric moisture is condensed into minute ice crystals which leave those peculiar lines in the sky).

Well all of Lanchester's theory and practise link-up was put in a paper and read to a meeting of the Birmingham Natural Historical and Philosophical Society on June 19 1894. After, he sent it to the Royal Society who advised that the Physical Society would be best to receive it for publication. They rejected it and the thesis was put away to gather dust. Thirteen years later, in 1907, Lanchester finally published his book, "Aerodynamics" which is now regarded as a classic in the history of aerodynamics.

Even then the value of his ideas was not readily apparent for Lanchester, not being very good at maths, avoided their use and so cut himself off from the more academic reader critics. Neither was he well acquainted with the post Newtonian classical hydrodynamics and managed to steer clear of the paradoxes and blind alleys that his contemporaries often got in, some able to prove, on paper, that mechanical flight would forever be impossible. Perhaps to make up for it, Lanchester had a penchant for coining Greek words that sounded very strange on the ear - such as 'apterichord' and 'aerodonetics'. "Aerodynamics" made great demands on the readers intuitive perceptions and even Ludwig Prandtl who first described the 'boundary layer' only grasped its full meaning as he was just working on similar lines in Germany.

Lanchester's exposures of what was really happening to the aerofoil in flight immediately made possible the application of full mathematical analysis to aerodynamic problems and finally to the design of aircraft themselves.

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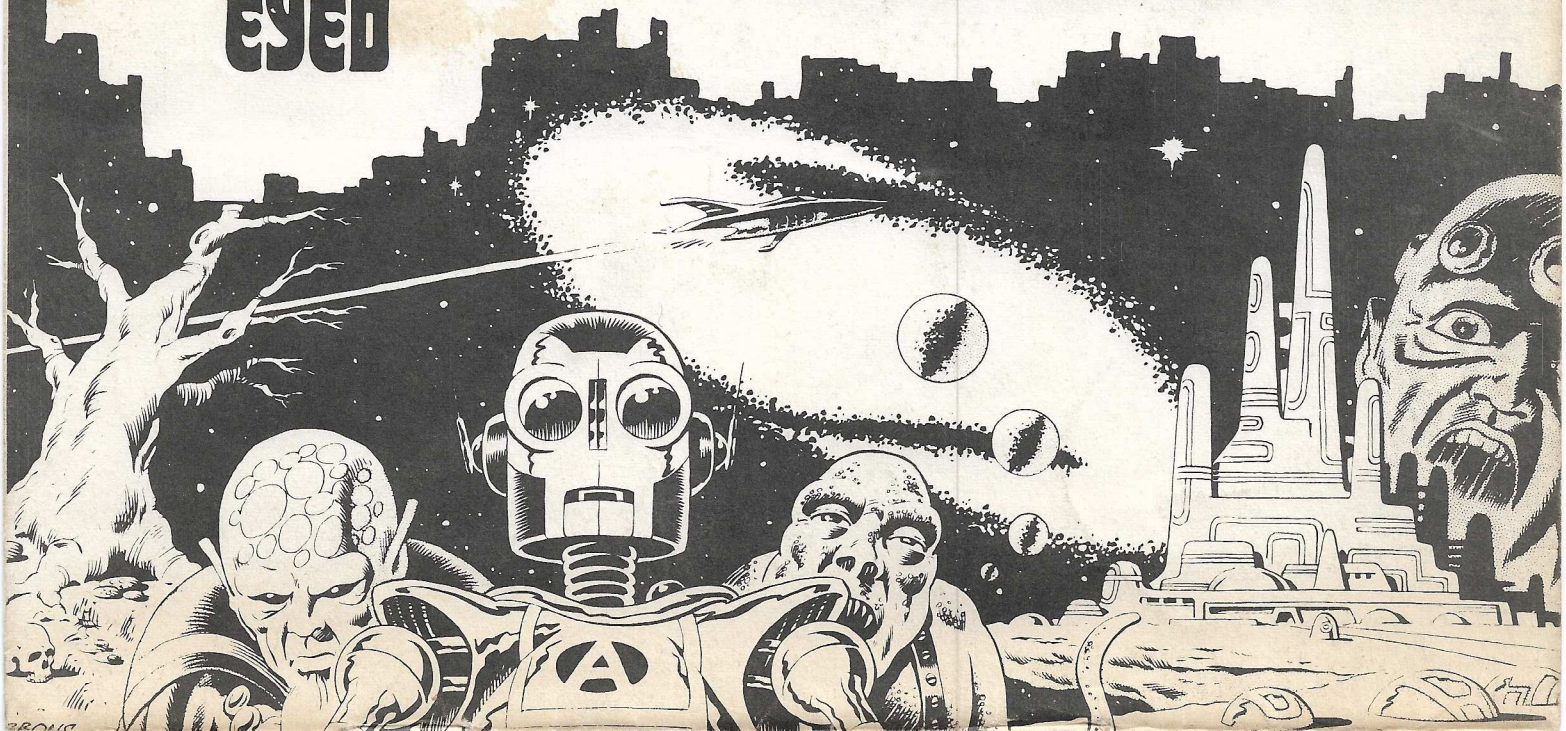
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